

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15

PRS-01 SPC-03 IGA-02 EB-11 COME-00 DRC-01 /116 W

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R 271040Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8281

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

LIMITED OFFICIAL VIENTIANE 2488

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, EAID, CA, LA

SUBJECT: NAM NGUM PHASE II

MANILA FOR USADB

BANGKOK FOR RED

PASS TO AID

1. AT ICC CANADIAN REPRESENTATIVE ANDRE SIMARD'S REQUEST, USAID DIR ON MARCH 27 BREAKFASTED WITH ANDRE GINGRAS AND MARC LANDRY, CANADIAN INDOCHINA AID REPRESENTATIVE AND PROJECT OFFICER, C.I.D.A., ASIA DIVISION, OTTAWA, RESPECTIVELY TO DISCUSS CANADIAN PARTICIPATION NAM NGUM PHASE II.

2. GINGRAS AND LANDRY EXPRESSED THEIR DISAPPOINTMENT WITH ADB AND RLG DECISION TO SELECT SWISS CONSULTING FIRM ALTHOUGH CANADIAN COMPANY ACRES WAS SECOND LOWEST BIDDER AND VERY MUCH DOUBTED WHETHER CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION OF \$3 MILLION COULD BE SALVAGED. CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION AS WAS WELL KNOWN TO RLG AND ADB TIED CONTRIBUTION OF \$2,500,000 FOR ENGINEERING

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SERVICES AND \$500,000 FOR TRAINING.

3. WHEN USAID DIR ASKED WHETHER THERE IS POSSIBILITY FOR CANADA TO MODIFY ITS POSITION, LANDRY STATED THAT \$3 MILLION HAVE BEEN APPROPRIATED FOR AFOREMENTIONED PURPOSES AND THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE CABINET DECISION TO CHANGE NATURE OF CANADIAN CONTRIBUTION AND REPORT OF SUCH DECISION BY GOC TO PARLIAMENT. NO SUCH PROCEDURE HAS EVER BEEN ADOPTED BY GOC. LANDRY SERIOUSLY DOUBTED CANADA WOULD PARTICIPATE FORTHCOMING APRIL 17-18 ADB MANILA MEETING.

4. USAID DIR STRESSED BOTH ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF NAM NGUM PHASE II TO LAOS AND EXPRESSED HOPE CANADA WOULD FIND MEANS TO PARTICIPATE NAM NGUM II FINANCING. WHEN ASKED HOW CANADA COULD ON DIRECT BILATERAL BASIS USE THESE \$3 MILLION, MANN REITERATED THE IMPORTANCE OF CANADA'S PARTICIPATION NAM NGUM II FINANCING AND SUGGESTED AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO DIRECT PARTICIPATION NAM NGUM PHASE II, PUMP IRRIGATION AND WATER CONTROL PROJECTS VIENTIANE PLAIN, IMPROVEMENT OF ROAD NETWORK VIENTIANE PLAIN AND HOSPITAL CONSTRUCTION LUANG PRABANG.

5. LANDRY WILL BE BACK OTTAWA MONDAY, APRIL 1 AND REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH CANADIAN POSITION APPEARS TO BE FIXED, GAINED IMPRESSION THAT DOOR STILL SLIGHTLY OPEN FOR MODIFICATIONS OF GOC POSITION. DEPARTMENT MIGHT CONSIDER IT ADVISABLE FOR EMBASSY OTTAWA AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO STRESS IMPORTANCE CANADIAN PARTICIPATION NAM NGUM PHASE II.
WHITEHOUSE

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